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NARATIVE FIND



EXERCISE BOOK

Caravan Diary

Name..... *Caravan 32, Julie's Well*

Subject..... *Bodmin Landscape Project 1996*

REF 130F

3 done (age midnight)

Chris, Ash and Mike got together and discussed what ~~the~~ last phases were done, Mike writing some representative notes for us all. Not liking these, Mike tore them up. They were too personal. Because we were tired, it seems, we looked at what was most accessible to us, not what actually mattered. However, three observations were perhaps of importance. 1) According to Chris, Sue was genuinely surprised by Mike's appreciation of our role. 2) Mike thought Barbara - or Mike noticed Barbara throwing in a conciliatory remark to the end of most conversations, an agreement or not wishing other people here, something (not asked for) on

a hierarchy w/ experience,
and so on.) 3) Chris (T) said
very little, stating ~~rather~~
anthropological observations but
not arguing them. Perhaps
he was tired. 4) Mike, as
usual, couldn't keep his mouth
shut. The arguments were of
the usual dishonest sort,
using the technique of argument
to make a point, rather than the
argument itself. Or at least so
Mike perceived them. Some
things were clarified, however:
line (above), "roles" etc., and
this is important for the
site. Many other things remain
to be resolved.

4 June (after midnight)

Quote from Chris. Apparently on
hearing some very black blues,

Sue declared, "it's so pretty, it's so pretty". This was not what was expected.

Helen said something interesting today, the caravan story is like big brother. There are two Kasari for this, one, we don't want to say too many "interesting" things, in that case we would be waiting all the time, and, two, because we don't wish to hurt anyone. The latter point is emphasised by Chris and Ash in particular. In particular, they like Sue and don't want to distress her. She has formed a close personal attachment to the site.

On site, we were initially

very confused: we don't know
what he aims were; we don't know
what was happening! Chris felt his
professional confidence (not
competence) flooding away.
Mike detached himself completely.
Ash was simply bemused. These
things should have been the
simplest things on site. Neither
Chris nor Mike understood the
purpose of the numerous (every
where) gnat pegs in Helen's
trunk. Chris feels odd doing
things as opposed to telling
people ~~to~~ to do things. "I bet my
traveling is absolute shite,"
he says. i.e. he's out of
practice. Mike feels perfectly
comfortable here, but would
... well, we'll leave that
out out. Ash is bemused in
this respect as well.

*

Final quote from Chris,
"If they don't have boys in
this place" (the restaurant) "it's
illegal."

4th floor (before midnight)

Kelen was going to write
bright diary but she's not here.

*

"For the good of the
excavation" (ASH), standard
time were ranged for
arrival on and departure from site.
Chris says "we got our way":
9-6. Because Mike was on
the other side of the hill, he was
not involved. 11- was a
nice day. Chris enjoyed
putting up the fence; in the
outdoor life not archaeology.

perse when he enjoys. Ash
enjoyed the idea that his
sand pegs had been eaten, and
enjoyed re-setting them. Both
agree that there is a chasm
between the archaeologists
and the anthropologists; for the
reason they have little to
say. Chris, however, thinks
that they think us lazy!
In addition, he believes that their
late arrival* was a deliberate
personal attack on Sue.

The other side of the site,
things were well: Mike's
plan was nearly finished. Today
at least, the spot was widened
and he enjoyed it. It is
very nice to be left to
one's self in such a place.

Twice Mike was visited by

* at the shore pan.

the anthropologists. Why doesn't
he trust Barbara; she seems
okay. They promised to come
back to discuss different types of
drawing, but did not.
Mike feels that this was just
as well.

*

Final quote from Mike "nothing
gets up my nose." Mike
does not understand why, but
Chris insists that he writes this
down!

Final, final quote on Barbara,
"I would describe her as profession-
ally Sane" (Anon).

5th June

Philosophising - I know this
is not strictly the ~~the~~ right
word - takes time, and this was

have either of. Besides, I
don't seem to have much to say.
I can't be bothered with
the others' backing. It seems
no more than rationalized self-
chairs. And as yet the
site evokes nothing defn
ideologically. The sensation
is emotional rather than
academic (by that I do not
mean I want to buy any stone).
Chris reckons this is ballocks.
This sensation, apparently,
does not get across to him at all
— maybe it's inhibited by
something else on site.
Nothing of course gets up my
nose.

*

Chris certainly was brought
down by the backing this

morning. Barbara and the others did not seem to listen to what we were saying, or ~~that~~ did not understand - we were talking about recording. As I think they "willfully misunderstood" make us it sure, but at any rate the response was unpleasant. It is difficult to pin down exactly. In a way it was defensive, in a way offensive - an attack other than an argument - and thus personal. Left to ourselves, however we are all quite content.

One interesting thing emerged at the terminal site. Chris wanted to take out the subunit, and Chris (T) agreed. Both wanted to get down to something interesting, irrespective of what that was. The same, in other words, is serious,

concerned about the speed
with which excavation is
progressing: Why open NW-39
when we can't even dig
an empty hole? Mike tends
to agree. It is particularly
important to him since
his work is only being
carried out because of the
forthcoming excavation.

Finally, the locals. Chris
wants to take an axe to them.
Oh, and Mike's got a final
comment too. This morning
Chris was supposed to be leaving
with Steve for the Golden
Merchant at 7.30. Ha, ha! He
didn't set his alarm clock
so got off half twenty past. He
insists he would have got up
earlier if there was any chance
* (and now Ash's)

on getting away at that time
however. This is true in through
and through (Chris also needed
that I inserted the penultimate
sentence, making something funny
serious: "that's an interesting
observation on his character. Now
later to be maybe lazy."

*

"Can't say anything in this place!"
(Chris). Peter was right.

6th June

~~Chris (Ash) have not been in
the archaeological site where
the last day found the bones...~~

Chris had a good day, but "can't be asked" to add
any comments.

Ash had by far best day so far - included something
resembling archaeology i.e. planning NE quadrant of house 39.

We have noticed that ~~on~~ every day since there was "the discussion" about finishing time on site that the settlement survey team have got off site earlier than the excavation team. [N.B. we start 1 hour earlier too...]

8 June AM

Chris and Mike made a bet this morning. M bet him a new CD player he would be married by the time he was 32. Chris accepted the bet "This is the easiest bet I've ever taken," he said, with a determined grin.

9th June

Currently, we're watching football, Helen, Ash, Chris and Mike. Only one of us likes it. Helen will be winning the Gary for this evening. She has just just been telling us how

Failure or success by one's team
affects the supporters testosterone
level; the subject rose because
of Chris's harsh words to a
fire serving in a fish and chip
shop last night. I thought
it was love ... Anyway. AC
to Helen.

I wasn't on site today - because no one
got the messages I left on the carphone
ansaphone I was stranded in Exeter and
finished up in Heavitree police station.

Spent the night trying not to fall out
of a plastic chair ~~and~~ and avoiding
the other occupants of the waiting room
(various drunks, victims of drunken disputes
and a ~~other~~ soldier turning himself in
after going AWOL for 6 months). Had
a much needed cigarette with a ~~man~~
teacher from a reformatory school who was
waiting for news of 4 of his charges
who had broken bail and absconded
in a ~~set~~ stolen car in the direction of

*Mike says that he'd never go into a police station unless in custody ←

Plymouth. — As you'd expect I'm a bit loitered.

Quite relieved to find the caravan is not the basket of boddy expected, especially as I'm told it can ~~do~~ cause dangerous fluctuations in testosterone levels. Caravan is also very clean and tidy. Chris says he is almost obsessively tidy — Ash makes an effort — Mike seems quite fussy to me. Mike says he's never met a bidy girl, I've met one or two. I wonder what happens to make shrewly girls into bidy mums? (Actually I know quite a few very in-house proud ^{mums} ~~mums~~ too).

Chris went to Tintagel today — he was expecting something mystical — but found The Excalibur Tearooms and Grandma Wobblay's fudge shop painted pink. The coast was excellent but every 500 steps there

was a bunch of Americans gathering
on - Chris.

The P.P.S. was on site today, every
person I have mentioned this to
used the adjective "old" to describe
them. Ash and Mike continued to
plan. Ash finished his plan - Mike
and Ash differ ^{only} ~~now~~ the size of one
rock (!) (Chris keeps making little grunting
noises, gasping and muttering to himself
throughout this conversation - probably
due to hormonal fluctuations I expect).

At the end of the day the
settlement survey team wandered over
the horizon (apparently) and the
others followed after ~~packing~~ packing
up. Ash says this was "noted with
interest" Mike says "nothing gets up
my nose." ~~They~~ We have all received
names based on our initials - Chris
is "Completely Grounded", Mike is "Hoarse
Man", Barbara = "Bag brush", None for
Complete Twat.

Ash or no yet (unless they're just being diplomatic).

Marilyn and Crystal have been had a late night fright from a man with dreadlocks covered in wood shavings. The owner of the campsite was very reassuring. He either a campsite or a ghost, too he said. Mike says if there ^{are} any such things as ghosts they definitely exist here - he can sense it.

*

Final note: at about 9-30, Chris was caught Sexually abusing the sofa.

Mike says that he used to go out with the daughter of an anthropologist. And that he killed himself by blowing his head off. When asked if that was because Mike was going out with his daughter, Mike didn't answer & both Chris & Ash had hysterics.

This must tell you, dear reader, something about us...

10th June

There is a discussion in the caravan about recording and stone. Three things may be important: 1) annotating drawings with interpretative comments 2) the nature of the rock scene in which the settlement lies and the consequent difficulty in distinguishing in-situ rocks from manipulated ones, and the implications of this in terms of buried soils and the "importance" of particular stones structurally and/or culturally. 3) the means by which the interiors of huts were levelled, clearance or dumping.

1) Mike has already expressed his reservations about interpreting unexcavated structures (see LSS draw, 7th June). What he says about what he sees in an unexcavated

structure has no special validity
and therefore there is no
reason why he should note
it down. What is important is
not the interpretation but the
information upon which this
is based. From it the interpret-
ation is derived. This is the
point of systemized recording.
These wanderings of the author's
of the forthcoming report
don't pass the book onto him
by this report. 1) So then
making a mistake, the desert
mind being responsible per se,
but he will not be responsible
for something of which he does
not approve — pre-excitation
interpretation. 2) The Settlement
lies in a rock scree / stream.
Granite weatherers - of / in slabs.
In isolation, these will lie
flat on the ground as on the

southern side of Westervick
hill, but where they are
bunched together they could be
orientated in any direction. Super-
ficially it isn't possible to identify
manipulated stones except by
distinguishing non-natural patterns
in their distribution, and there
can be no pattern in an individual
stone. This is true even if it
forms part of a larger pattern:
stones could be moved to it,
stones could be moved away from
it. This has obvious implications
in terms of the settlement
teams interpretation of
special stones. An orthostat may
have been set upright, it may
be naturally upright. A
whole-backed stone may have
been returned (to move it down-
hill?), etc. Only excavation
can be realistically be expected

to Denby "recently" moved
Stones. This is based on the
assumption - challenged by
Matt - that the mechanism by
which the scree was formed
would also have removed
the soil thereunder. A naturally
moved stone would not
have any soil under it, a
manipulated one or one which
moves because of human
disturbance might (we cannot
rule out the possibility that
soil was eroded from
beneath a stone subsequent
to movement, or - very
possibly - by the man who
moved it). Mike is convinced
that the scree ~~is the scree~~
was formed as a result of
periglacial activity. Moreover,
he is of the view that the
shallowness of the slope and the

size of the stones precludes any possibility of more recent downslope movement among them (it is on this latter point that Stegall agrees). 3) In building with the theme of opposites, stones may be removed from an upright, a terrace being built up rather than cut in (see Stegall's diary for the 11th), it occurred to Mike that a hut platform may be levelled by filling-in rather than clearance. He saw this in the Burien where karren beneath a hut he excavated were in-filled with limestone boulders.

*

On the way to the site today Mike spotted a dead lamb lying beside the road. Next to it stood a ewe. When we

came back it was still there.
Expression is not only human.

11th June necessary
"wet" (Chris). "It was a slave it was
to achieve any "base line"
tasks today," Ash remarks, when
we all ended up so wet. Mike tends
to agree. Chris's car is soaked
again.

Tiles accommodate. One
becomes more settled to
archaeology, with practice, one
becomes more settled.

12th June.

Ash and I are treated by Chris
to a steak in Camelford. M shows
his social skills by shifting the con-
versation from archaeology, later
we drink with Chris Tully, who is very

funny, coming up with increasingly
far-fetched ideas about the project
treatment of the site and laughing
at them. Finally, four chairs
we borrowed from the bar to be
brought up on site tomorrow where they
will be placed inside huts and
photographed. Appropriately, this
strategy was brought up in the context
of modern art. CHRIST, Gary and
Sue are lovers of some (in Mike's
view) poor exponents of the genre.
Possibly, he was tired out by this
time CHRIS G had left. CHRIST has
a ~~funny~~ shy person's laugh. It is not
at all what one would expect
from Tilly, the lecturer, who
seems always to be taking the piss
and whose expression most of all
resembles a sneer. Mike likes him.
It would seem that Sue, for all her
frustration with him, does too.

*

It could be that we went up to site yesterday

In order to make the lazy settlement team feel
sorry.

B done

In the morning (Mike's day
off), Sue comes into the
Cantina to eat her crossbuns.
Apparently we'd arranged this last
night. God! Chris Tully
arrived a few minutes later.
Chris was shocked: "What's
all this about?" "Oh," Sue
says, "Something that happened
last night." Chris's wide eyes
were then closed by, "Oh, not..."
Meanwhile under the duvet, Mike
is doing what feels like a hot
water bottle, not awake enough
to deliberate the known untruth
of Sue's first unqualified answer
from the hot water bottle
when cold only be hers (Actually,
it was his belt and water bottle
carrier).

*

A walk on the moors.

[Interjection by ASL :-

Helen has today suffered from hay fever, Mike from allergy to spores from arboreal fungi. Hence my contribution today is as follows; "Perhaps the reason Neolithic people cleared the landscape was because they were trying to get away from trees, due to allergies & hay fever etc - of course I'm not suggesting that they recognised the explicit cause, merely that, on the whole, they realised they felt better in clearings, & so ~~seized~~ every opportunity to enlarge them."

My thought yesterday was about the small but vertically orientated stone that abuts the charcoal containing context 2m north of the largest stone at the terminal; since it defines the S-SW edge of the charcoal, & the prevailing winds come from the SW, this stone must have been put vertically in place to act as a windbreak when trying to create the fire that resulted in the charcoal. Barbara says this is too functional an interpretation, but I'm claiming nothing about the purpose for lighting the fire (I'll just note that it's very close to modern surface, so possibly last few hundred years, & they may have cooked a meal while trying to dig out the largest stone for a gate post.)

I've just noticed that I've got diagonal sunburn from today.



Makes a pleasant change from the scaly peeling back that I've had for 2 days - as a

result of planning Hut 39 last week for $2\frac{1}{2}$ hrs without my shirt - this was a mistake, since it meant that I couldn't lie on my back for 3 nights (due to pain) & hence lost significant amounts of sleep.

Makes you wonder just what impact things such as state of health, & personal life outside Laskernick have on the individuals here, & their reactions to the site.

I know in my case that burnt back made wearing rucksack to site intolerable for 2 days, hence I tried to avoid carrying toolboxes etc (but still got to site somewhat painfully) - hence arrived there feeling a bit guilty about not carrying the boxes as much as some others of the excavation team.

Yesterday Barbara & Christ made a habit of dropping in to LSR to see what was happening - first time they've done that - nice to be given the impression that they have some interest in the excavation.

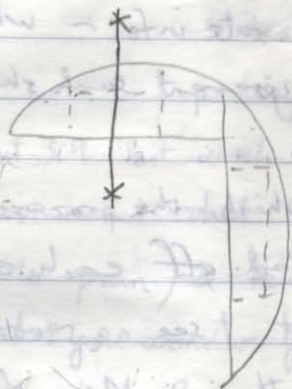
This is day 3 of the "Excavation Encounter". Still no one has shown up to take part - thus ~~demonstrating~~ ^{confirming} the perceived lack of interest by settlement types in the excavation.

The "non-hierarchical" structure continues to cause chaos — ~~today we~~ ran out of mugs, so no tea or coffee on site, despite this being promised in the original site info — why can't people keep track of these things & prevent such shortages arising? Seems dead simple to me.

I don't see any ^{significant} way in which the processes of settlement survey & excavation have fed off each other. The results of each no doubt will, but I see no reason for running both aspects fully concurrently. Many of the excavation problems — numbers of people, slack breaks, short days for most leading to molluscan progress would be reduced/discarded by having the 2 teams demonstrably separate — if not practicable to ~~have~~ ^{run} them at different times, why not have compulsory excavation days (e.g. two per person per week), laid out in advance, with known start & stop times — it would ensure everyone understood excavation & its problems while ensuring that progress was made.]

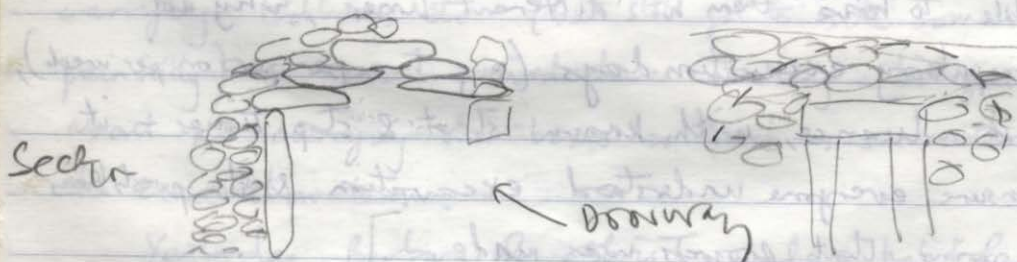
I will leave the poetry, the
giving of nature into a human
(almost an individual) world, to
Chris Tilly. Three things were
interesting. A circular structure

below rough plan of medieval or
post medieval site

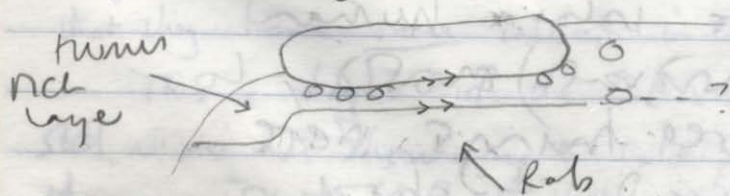


Plan

Each curve had a cobbled
shelter in it, in one case resting
on a huge or two ston



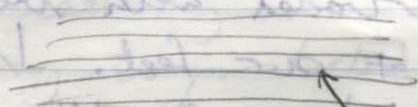
A SAI profile beneath a ground



The humic layer beneath the stone was characterized by 1) being parallel with the lower surface of the stone, 2) by being veined, and 3) by being thinner than the profile beyond the stone. And a profile with china clay

← 103a zone (platy)

← 103b zone



layered degradation

sample

17th June.

With CHRIS gone (and Sam today, Ash), Mike has three more things to write up. The particulars of the day are being buried before he gets time to write them,

hence two three day gap

MW + SS have staged a takeover of the caravan - henceforth blues will no ~~longer~~ longer be heard ~~on the~~ on the stereo, 80's hits tapes and "The kids from Lane, - Again" will reign. Mike's diet of Cadbury's Milk Chocolate Bites + Guinness from the bridge will be supplemented with leftovers from "hearty meals" - the place will be pervaded with the smell of frying garlic + our feet. In exchange for the dubious privilege of ~~allowing~~ our presence Mike has promised to bang on our door around 7.00 each morning (when he remembers).

"Mike is a boring old fart - get a life."

*

A third narrative found is recovered, three odd socks belonging to Chris

Tilly.

The campsite is overrun with families & screaming kids. Mike + Gary have a revelation about how to set the campsite + the world to rights;

Motion 1; Tax children - Gary insists that the tax be means tested in order to prevent children becoming status symbols

Motion 2; the laws regarding children be enforced by the Sex Police, who invade any unprotected compulsory scenario.

They have condom shaped helmets with a throbbing red light on the top. ^{They dress in} A rubber. The Sex Police also rip unregulated children from their mothers breasts - Mike has appointed himself chief - super-intendant.

22nd June

diary ends here